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Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles (11 pages)
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports ⁽¹⁾

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

On **December 19th, 2006**, **Ricon** [MFR] decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. **S6.10.2.7**) exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: **February 15th, 2007**

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): 06E-101

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabrication manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Glaval Bus, A Division Of Forest River, Inc.

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Rob Froelich, Design Engineer

Telephone Number: **(574) 262-2212 ext. 3665** Fax Number: **(574) 264-9036**

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report:

**Rob Froelich
Design Engineer**

Signed:

R. Froelich

⁽¹⁾ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Enforcement, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, " Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

- 2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

****Please see attached documentation labeled "Supplement Documentation" ****

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Body style: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Body style: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ Model Years Involved: _____ Model(s): _____

Production Dates: Beginning _____ Ending: _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ Ending: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ Body style: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

Vehicles produced during recall timeline: 641

Vehicles involved in recall: 75

Percentage of recalled vehicles vs. produced: 11.7%

II. Identify the Recall Population

- 3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Vehicles Model	Year	Number of Potentially
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Involved:

****Please see attached documentation labeled "Supplement Documentation" ****

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 75

- 4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 0%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined -- in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Ricon supplied us with model numbers and serial numbers of the lifts affected, which we have cross-referenced to our VIN's. We then found 75 to be involved.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

Note: The below information has been taken directly from Ricon's notice.
This recall process applies to the "Inner Barrier Interlock" only on Ricon's "2000 and 5500" series platform lifts labeled for "DOT Public Use".

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Note: The below information has been taken directly from Ricon's notice.
Inner barrier interlock switch system in the lift base plate

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Note: The below information has been taken directly from Ricon's notice.
It may be possible for the wheelchair to tip backwards onto the platform if the user is backing onto the lift from inside the vehicle and has the small front wheels fully or partially on the inner barrier when the platform was lowered.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

Park the vehicle in a safe location and operate the lift through the unfold/deploy cycle. With the lift at the vehicle floor level, place a 25-pound weight completely or partially on any part of the inner barrier, (yellow painted plate) and push the down switch. If the lift platform goes down more than one inch without stopping movement, the lift is non-compliant.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Ricon Corporation
7900 Nelson Road, Panorama City, California 91402

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Bill Hinze - Vice President

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

This non-compliance is a result of testing done by NHTSA at MGA Corporation in the summer of 2006. The test lifts failed to detect an object on the inboard rollstop required by FMVSS 403. There have been no accidents, injuries or warranty claims. Subsequent to the MGA tests Ricon investigated one Caltrans vehicle that had a foreign wire running through the base plate causing interference with switch operation

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

The below information has been taken directly from Ricon's notice. Upon notification from your end-user customer, Ricon will work with them to locate and correct the source of interference or other problem with the inner barrier interlock switch as quickly as possible. If the end-user is already factory-trained to perform this service, the repairs can be done at the operator's location. If the end-user is not factory trained to perform this service, we will arrange for the repairs to be done at the nearest Ricon authorized service center/dealer. In some cases, we may have these repairs performed by Ricon Corp. personnel. ** We will provide all

the necessary replacement parts at No Charge. If the repairs are done by the end-user, Ricon will pay one-hour labor at \$62.00.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

Recall Condition: Wires potentially blocking movement of the inner barrier interlock switch system.

Remedy: Route wires in alternate location, giving full movement to inner barrier interlock switch system.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Remedy simply involves re-routing wiring to clear path of inner barrier interlock switch system. Recalled component has restricted movement due to wires blocking travel.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

Assembly testing procedures were added to the process to insure proper operation at shipment and a service bulletin to installers regarding extra wires in the baseplate have been implemented.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

Glaval plans to mail the dealers/end users notice by postal mail March 1st, 2007. This is our target date, once we receive approval from NHTSA of our draft copy to the end users/dealers. We do not foresee any complications implementing this recall.

11. Furnish Recall Communications

12. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.

****Please see attached documentation labeled "Supplement Documentation" ****

The only information communicated to end users/dealers will be the draft copy we included with this document.

Secondary note: The reason we stated 0% for #4, page 3, is we run our wiring in a different location. We are following the recall for safety precautions only.